

Y. Matsushima, et al.
U.S.S.N. 09/045,385
Page 6

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding in the above-identified application, which Official Action the Examiner has designated as FINAL.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the courtesy accorded to their undersigned attorney during numerous recent telephone discussions concerning potential further amendments to independent Claim 18, the correct interpretation of the present specification and the cited art (both as of record in Official Actions or Information Disclosure Statements in this case, and as located by the Examiner during the course of supplemental searches conducted subsequent to the issuance of the currently outstanding FINAL Official Action). During the last of these interviews on 6 August 2003 the Examiner proposed for Applicants' consideration wording for independent claim 18 that subject to review of the specification to insure the presence of support therefor the Examiner deemed to be allowable.

Claims 3-5, 7, and 18-20 are presently under consideration. Claims 3-5, 7 and 18-20 stand rejected in the currently outstanding Official Action that has been designated as being FINAL. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants propose that Claim 18 be amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner to be allowable subject to a review of the specification to insure adequate support therefor in the interview of 6 August 2003 referred to above. No claims have been added, and no claims have been canceled. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the foregoing Amendment does not introduce into this prosecution any new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendment, if entered, will place this application in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for Appeal, as required by 37 CFR 1.116.

Y. Matsushima, et al.
U.S.S.N. 09/045,385
Page 7

A statement of the claims as they will stand in the event that the Examiner grants entry to this Amendment is set forth hereinabove as required by the Rules. Accordingly, in the event that this Amendment is entered, Claims 3-5, 7 and 18-20 as hereinabove amended will constitute the claims under active prosecution in this application.

In the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Failed to re-acknowledge Applicants' claim of foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) or (f), and re-confirmed the safe receipt of the priority document for this application by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. **Appropriate re-acknowledgement and re-confirmation in response to this communication is respectfully requested.** Further, formal confirmation of the acceptance of the corrected drawings filed on 3 May 2000 remains missing from the Applicants' file for this case. **Confirmation of the acceptability of those drawings in response to this communication therefore also is respectfully requested in response to this communication.**
2. Provided Applicants with a copy of a Notice of References Cited (PTO-892), copies of the newly cited references.

Y. Matsushima, et al.
U.S.S.N. 09/045,385
Page 8

3. Rejected Claims 3-5, 7 and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kim, et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,208) in view of the Shirahashi et al reference (U.S. Patent 5,285,301), the Sato et al reference (U.S. Patent 6,081,305), the Miyawaki et al reference (U.S. Patent 5,822,028), the Miyawaki, et al reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,054) the Japanese reference JP7-152022, the Ono reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,057,900), and the Masaki reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,538,884).
4. Rejected Claims 3-5, 7 and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Noda, et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,585,951) in view of the Shirahashi et al reference (U.S. Patent 5,285,301), the Sato et al reference (U.S. Patent 6,081,305), the Miyawaki et al reference (U.S. Patent 5,822,028), the Miyawaki, et al reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,054) the Japanese reference JP7-152022, the Ono reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,057,900), and the Masaki reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,538,884).
5. Rejected Claims 3-5, 7 and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kawabe, et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,162,654) in view of the Shirahashi et al reference (U.S. Patent 5,285,301), the Sato et al reference (U.S. Patent 6,081,305), the Miyawaki et al reference (U.S. Patent 5,822,028), the Miyawaki, et al reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,054) the Japanese reference JP7-152022, the Ono reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,057,900), and the Masaki reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,538,884).
6. Provided Applicants with his response to their previously filed Amendment.

Y. Matsushima, et al.
U.S.S.N. 09/045,385
Page 9

With regard to items 1, 2 and 6, further detailed discussion in these Remarks is not believed to be necessary.

With regard to items 3 - 5, Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the fact that the amendment of Claim 18 herein proposed places that claim in the form that the Examiner indicated during the course of the above-referred-to telephone interview to be allowable (subject to a check of the specification to insure the presence of support therefor in the present specification).

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing Amendment is clearly supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, the specification makes it abundantly clear that the present invention **avoids** the problems of the prior art associated with the high alignment required to avoid overlap of the light shielding frame with UV curable resins utilized as sealants in devices wherein the light shielding frame is disposed on the counter electrode carrying substrate and/or the large scale sealing apparatus requirements associated with very small sealing margins. Further, as is indicated at page 13, lines 21-24, the light-shielding frame is formed on the TFT substrate **around the periphery of the image display region** (defined at page 2, lines 9-12, as an area of the substrate corresponding to a display region of a liquid crystal display device from where a viewer can actually see a displayed image). Still, further, as noted at page 4, lines 3-4, **the sealant is generally located "in the vicinity of the light-shielding frame section"**.

Y. Matsushima, et al.
U.S.S.N. 09/045,385
Page 10

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3-5, 7, 18, 19 and 20 of this application, as they will stand upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, entry of the foregoing Amendment, and allowance of this application in response to this communication are respectfully requested.

Applicants also believe that additional fees beyond those submitted herewith are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 04-1105, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

FAX RECEIVED

Respectfully submitted, SEP 02 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Date: September 2, 2003

By: David A. Tucker
David A. Tucker
Reg. No. 27,840
Attorney for Applicant(s)

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, Massachusetts 02209
(617-517-5508)

346491